

REMARKS

I. Status

The Office Action indicates claims 1-20 to be pending in this Application. With this response, claims 16 and 20 are amended, and claims 1-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Comments regarding priority are set forth.

The specification objected to.

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061380).

Claims 16 and 20 are independent.

II. Priority

The Office Action states that:

“[r]eceipt is acknowledged of a certified copy of the 10/677,968 application referred to in the oath or declaration or in an application data sheet. If this copy is being filed to obtain the benefits of the foreign filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), applicant should also file a claim for such priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b)”
(see Office Action p. 2).

However, the Applicant respectfully observes that a Claim to Convention Priority indicating Japanese Application 2002-290215 was submitted on November 18, 2003.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification, the Office Action stating that:

“[c]laims 1-15 are objected to because there is lack of antecedent basis in the specification for ‘storage medium’”
(see Office Action p. 3).

For at least the reason that claims 1-15 are with this response canceled, the Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101

The Office Action rejects claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101, the Office Action stating that:

“[c]laims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter”
(see Office Action p. 3).

For at least the reason that claims 11-15 are with this response canceled, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. Amendment of Independent Claims 16 and 20

With this response, the Applicant amends independent claims 16 and 20. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Saito fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... acquiring a network address of the second network in accordance with the owner information acquired at the second acquisition step from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the apparatus ...”

as set forth in claim 16 as amended herewith (emphasis added).

As another example, Saito fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... wherein said reception means receives ... a network

address of the second network in accordance with the received owner information of the apparatus from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the apparatus ...”

as set forth in claim 20 as amended herewith (emphasis added).

Moreover, for at least the reason that Saito fails, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest that an apparatus connected to a first network is connected to a second network, Saito fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... a provision step of providing the service, via the Internet, to the apparatus via the second network in the case in which the host address acquired in said first acquisition step and the network address acquired in said third acquisition step coincide with the host address and the network address acquired in said fourth acquisition step”

as set forth in claim 16 as amended herewith, and:

“... said provision means determines whether or not the host address of the apparatus as connected to the first network and the network address of the second network coincide with the host address and the network address of a sending side included in the signal, and provides the service, via the Internet, to the apparatus via the second network in the case in which the host address of the apparatus as connected to the first network and the network address of the second network coincide with the host address and the network address of the sending side”

as set forth in claim 20 as amended herewith.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16 and 20 at least with the amendments herewith, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

VI. Dependent Claim Rejections

The Applicant does not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the

rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

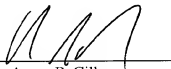
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5170.

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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